

ERNC Self-Guided Group Chaperone Guide

Teachers, use this handy form to make sure your fantastic chaperones are all on the same page!

Every person is welcome at the Eagle River Nature Center. We believe that every person regardless of ability can and should have an informative and positive experience.

naturalist@ernc.org 907-694-2108

Dear Chaperone,

Thank you so much for being a part of this field trip! We are going to the Eagle River Nature Center on _____. We are leaving school at _____ and returning at _____. We need to leave ERNC by _____. We are meeting as a self-guided group at _____. We couldn't go on adventures like this without your help. You set the example for behavior and preparation, and we are excited for you to share your knowledge, as well!

Preparations

Your enthusiasm and preparations help to set the tone for the trip before you even arrive! Please be sure to wear shoes appropriate for spending time outside as well as to dress in layers. We plan trips to be outside regardless of conditions. We will be outside longer than the typical recess period, so, when it is below freezing, snow boots, hats, and gloves are a must! Any dogs with your group must be leashed. If students are eating lunch at the Nature center, don't forget to pack one for yourself!

Directions

From Anchorage, Travel north on the Glenn Highway until the Eagle River Loop/Hiland exit. Stay on Eagle River Loop until it intersects with Eagle River Road (by Walmart). Turn right on to Eagle River Road. Drive 10 miles on Eagle River Road until the road dead ends at Nature Center. Be aware of speed limit changes as you approach the Nature Center.

From the Mat-Su Valley, Travel south on the Glenn Highway. Exit at South Eagle River. Turn right at the very first light. Follow Eagle River Road for 12 miles until you reach the parking lot and log cabin visitor center at the end of the road. Be aware of speed limit changes as you approach the nature center.

What do expect during your Self-guided visit

- Meet up with your group leaders at your predetermined location.
- Be aware that there may be another group inside the nature center and that the nature center may not be open and available.
- Trails are not paved. A variety of mobility aides have been successful on our trails.
- Rustic Latrines are located in the parking lot and near the Educational Yurt. The only running water available, including flush toilets, are inside the main Nature Center building which may not be open during your visit.
- Parking fees are not included as part of your *Self Guided* trip.
- The Nature Center Store is not usually available during field trips.
- *Self-guided groups* may eat on the riverbank or other destinations at least 1 mile from the nature center but not on viewing decks, walkways, or bridges. If reservations are made in advance by the group leader, the picnic tables behind ERNC may be available.

On the Trail

Practice good trail etiquette! Be sure that other trail users can move around your group; that all dogs are leashed, trash is picked up; and students are representing their group positively. Additionally, be aware that there is no picking of mushrooms, berries, or other natural resources within 50 feet of trails.

Please don't hesitate to contact Eagle River Nature Center staff if you have further questions and refer to the Frequently Asked Questions page.

Thank you again for helping to make this trip successful!